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CLAIMS

The claims are as follows:

1. An element for use in stationary material distribution apparatus comprising:

an article of manufacture having a flat generally rectangular central portion having first

10 and second sets of ears affixed to opposite sides of said central portion, said sets of ears including first and second ears bent respectively in upward and downward directions relative to the plane of said central portion, each set of ears located diagonally opposite one another across said central portion being bent in the same direction relative to the plane of said central portion, a third set of ears extending from said central portion and 15 terminating at a substantially rectangular member whose plane of orientation is substantially perpendicular to said central portion and a retaining ring affixed to said substantially rectangular member.

2. The combination of claim 1 wherein said retaining ring is characterized as having a planar body portion substantially perpendicular to said substantially rectangular member and having a radially extending opening sized to capture and retain said 20 substantially rectangular member.

3. The combination of claim 2 further comprising a conduit in which said article is fitted.

4. The combination of claim 3 wherein said conduit is provided with an 25 upstream end and a downstream end, said retaining ring being positioned proximate said downstream end.

5. The combination of claim 4 wherein said conduit is provided with a flange for connecting said conduit to an adjacent conduit, said retaining ring being sized to abut said flange and to limit extension of said article of manufacture into said conduit.

30 6. The combination of claim 3 wherein said generally rectangular central portion is rotated approximately 30 degrees from horizontal within said conduit.

7. The combination of claim 5 wherein said conduit is characterized as having an inner diameter that is substantially equal to said radially extending opening of said retaining ring.

5 8. The combination of claim 4 wherein said article of manufacture is
removable from said conduit.

9. The combination of claim 4 wherein said conduit is provided with a
second article of manufacture positioned within said conduit upstream of said article of
manufacture, said second article of manufacture comprising a flat generally rectangular
10 central position having first and second sets of ears affixed to opposite sides of said
central portion, said sets of ears including first and second ears bent respectively in
upward and downward directions relative to the plane of said central portion, each pair of
ears located diagonally opposite one another across said central portion being bent in the
same direction relative to the plane of said central portion, a third set of ears extending
15 from said central portion and terminating at a substantially rectangular member whose
plane of orientation is substantially perpendicular to said central portion.